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See B section for articles

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CONVERGING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

NW MISSOURIAN

THURSDAY
March 15, 2007
V81 / N24
www.nwmissourianews.com

WEEKENDWEATHER

FRIDAY



HI 52
LO 33

SATURDAY



HI 52
LO 35

SUNDAY



HI 68
LO 42



3 MEN CONVICTED IN METH LAB POST BAIL

The three men charged with manufacturing methamphetamine have all made bail, Nodaway County Sheriff Ben Espy said.

Kurby D. Parman, 57, Barnard, Terry L. Faller, 40, Barnard, and Darrell E. Cronk, 45, Arkoe, were arrested March 5 for manufacturing methamphetamine.

All three were charged with a class B felony for manufacturing a controlled substance. Parman and Cronk were also charged with a class C felony for possession of methamphetamine.

The arrest was made after a search Parman's residence, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, revealed a methamphetamine production operation.

At an arraignment hearing on March 13, Faller and Parman were both given court dates of April 10 and April 3 respectively, Nodaway County Prosecuting Attorney David Baird said. Cronk's trial date could not be attained.

TODAY

Mathematics Olympiad

Third installment due.

FRIDAY

Spring Break begins.

Habitat Alternative Spring Break begins at the Newman Center

FRIDAY

Spring Break begins.

Habitat Alternative Spring Break begins at the Newman Center

www.nwmissourianews.com

Visit the web for:

A video package of Tony Francis, a local child coping with autism and a video package on the Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness and the dogs they helped.

—CHILDHOOD AUTISM STATISTICS CLIMBING

A silent struggle



photo by mike dye | photography editor

NORTHWEST SENIOR Alena Derks works with 11-year-old Tony Francis on Thursday afternoon in the basement of his house. Derks, who has worked with Tony for the past three years, practices Tony's motor skills through the use of a keyboard.

Statistics show a national increase in autism in children, characterized by trouble communicating, socializing

By Tara Adkins
Features Editor

he net swing sends him flying around his therapy room while children's sing-along songs blast in his ears. He giggles and shouts at the words while he reads along through sign language.

One in 150 children are affected by autism. Tony Francis is one of them.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found in a recent study, the autism rate has increased from 5.5 to 6.66 in every 1000 children.

"Ten years ago, the autism spectrum increased and autism became popular terminology, but now everyone has education on it. It's a positive trend not a negative one," said Marcy Roush, University language instructor.

Roush previously taught special education to students in Bethany and Albany, Mo. schools.

The research study examined medical and school records of 8-year-olds and surveyed thousands of families in part of 14 states.

Although the findings should not be generalized to a national average, CDC officials said it gives the most accurate count on how common autism is in parts of the country.

Autism is a mental disorder that affects a range of behaviors, including trouble communicating, socializing and participating in creative activity. It is usually diagnosed by age three but lasts throughout adulthood.

Because diagnosis can range from mild to severe, the autism spectrum includes developmental disorders such as Rett Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder and Asperger Syndrome.

Several parents go through the same circumstances



photo by mike dye | photography editor

ALENA DERKS communicates with Tony Francis, who is autistic, through the use of sign language in the basement of his house on Thursday afternoon. Tony started showing the signs of autism when he was about 2-years-old.

Incidence vs. Private Funding

- leukemia: Affects 1 in 25,000—Funding: \$310 million
- Muscular Dystrophy: Affects 1 in 20,000—Funding: \$175 million
- Pediatric AIDS: Affects 1 in 8,000—Funding: \$394 million
- Juvenile Diabetes: Affects 1 in 500—Funding: \$130 million
- Autism: Affects 1 in 150—Funding: \$15 million

Facts about autism:

- 67 children are diagnosed per day
- A new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs the nation over \$90 billion per year, a figure expected to double in the next decade
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to be autistic
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

Source: Autismspeaks.org

see **AUTISM** on A6

—COMMUNITY NEWS

Eckert honored in annual walk

By Whitney Keyes
Chief Reporter

Opal Eckert walked fast. She believed that by walking at a quick pace, she wouldn't appear as old.

"Even in her eighties, she was going fast. She walked fast even in heels," said Northwest Registrar Linda Girard, a former student of Eckerts.

Saturday, March 17, people will walk in memory of Eckert at the Opal Eckert Walk in Bearcat Arena.

Eckert was a prominent member of the Maryville community, serving as a teacher, club member, author and journalist for many years.

The event, hosted by the Maryville chapter of the American Association of University

Women, will start with registration at 8:30 a.m., followed by a time to share stories about Eckert. Then, a 30 to 45 minute walk will end out the day, along with refreshments from Hy-Vee.

The women of the AAUW started the walk, in hopes of raising money for the Opal Eckert Grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation. When the \$35,000 goal is reached, it will be used to help women further their education. The group has 15 years to raise the money.

"She was big supporter of the AAUW, and it's really rewarding to give her this recognition," said walk director Nina Schneider. Schneider serves as the director of the walk.

One new element of the walk, is a donated opal jewel from Craviston and Son Jewelry. The registration fee is a free will

donation and will serve as an entry for the opal drawing. Recommended amounts by the AAUW are \$5 for one entry or \$20 for five. All donations are tax-deductible.

Eckert, who died Dec. 30, 2005, at 100, was a well-respected Maryville citizen.

She started teaching in a one-room schoolhouse, immediately after receiving her two-year teaching degree.

From there, she went on to spend her later years as principal in Pickering, Mo., and also as an English and journalism teacher at Maryville High School and Northwest.

Girard, who had Eckert for both English and journalism at MHS, remembers a whole unit on football, just because Eckert thought it was important.

see **ECKERT** on A6

—BIOPHARMING UPDATE

Center of Excellence may receive \$24.4 million

By Kristin Summers, Evan Young
University Editor, Copy Editor

Whether or not Northwest receives the remaining funding for the Center of Excellence in Plant Biologics from the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative is still up in the air.

But Northwest received good news last week, when Gov. Matt Blunt released an updated list of initiative projects, along with the amount of initiative funding they would receive.

Northwest will get an additional \$13 million for the Center of Excellence, bringing the total funding for the project to \$24.4 million.

The building's construction budget, previously \$15.4 million, will now increase to \$30 million because of the additional funds, Provost Kichoon Yang said.

Yang said the \$13 million would add classroom and laboratory space to the Center of Excellence. The University has already provided \$4 million in matching for the building.

The additional funds are a result of the elimination of five construction projects from the initiative's original list, District 12 Sen. Brad Lager said. The money from those projects was subsequently redistributed among the remaining projects.

see **CENTER** on A6

—UP 'TIL DAWN



photo by stephanie stangl | editor-in-chief

ACADEMY STUDENT Cassie Gray participates in the bungee run on Friday night during the Up 'til Dawn event held at the Student Recreation Center. The event raised \$51,152 dollars for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

All-night event raises \$51,152

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

When she was just four and a half years old, she lost her father to cancer and since then, for as long as she can remember, Northwest student Emily Petersen has always wanted to help others fighting the disease.

Her biggest contribution came this school year serving as the Assistant Director of the "Up 'til Dawn" Executive Board, which benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"This is something that I have been looking forward to doing something with probably ever since I hit high school," Petersen said. "It's just something I took an interest in when I find more people around me who have cancer."

The "Up 'til Dawn" event took place March 10. Director Veronica Petree said it is the finale event celebrating the fundraiser.

"The finale event is called 'Up 'til Dawn' because we stay awake for the kids sake," Petree said. "It's just in honor of parents who have to stay awake or family members who have to stay awake with other

see **UP 'TIL DAWN** on A5

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Homecoming sign-up in Campus Activities office

Any group, student or organization interested in participating in 2007 Homecoming activities can pick up an entry form from the Campus Activities Office in the J.W. Jones Student Union.

Also, any student, group or organization is eligible to nominate one king and one queen candidate by Friday. All candidates must have a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher at time of nomination, including transfer hours.

Groups that have a finalist selected must compete in one competition during Homecoming. Interviews for royalty will be Saturday, March 31. For more information about Homecoming, e-mail the Homecoming committee at Homecmg@nwmissouri.edu.

Northwest Dance Company performing Thursday

The Northwest Dance Company will perform "Reel Dance" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$5 at the door and a raffle will be held at the show.

Tower Queen voting on CatPAWS until March 27

Students can log on to their CatPAWS account to vote for this year's Tower Queen. Voting will end at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 27, at the Belltower.

Sign Language Club performs songs from the 1980s

Sign Language Club presents "80's are back" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 in the J.W. Student Union Ballroom. Admission is \$2.

Registration for 'Cat Walk and Health Fair ends Friday

Registration for 'Cat Walk 2007 and Health Fair ends Friday. The event is a benefit for cystic fibrosis. Anyone interested can register at the Student Services Center in the Administration Building or at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services.

The Health Fair will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and the Walk will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 31, in Bearcat Arena. Bone density, blood pressure and lung function screenings are free. Cholesterol screenings are \$15 and a 10-hour fast is recommended. Clean shoes are also recommended for the walk.

Pick-A-Professor.com makes class scheduling easier

By Shane Sherwood
Missourian Reporter

First there was the classes catalog. Then there was CatPAWS. Now there is Pick-A-Professor.

Northwest has now been added to Pick-A-Professor, an online consultation where students can access the percentages of grades of most of the professor's classes.

The University is not joining the Web site, however. The request came from Pick-A-Professor on Feb. 27, for the University to distribute their grades for the fall 2006 trimester. Due to the Sunshine Law, "we must comply," said Kichoon Yang, provost.

Pick-A-Professor is not charging the University any funds to be on the Web site, but the University is charging a small processing fee to the Web site. For students, however, it is not a fee consultation. There is a charge of \$4.95 for three months, or \$10 for one year, ranging to \$45 for five years of service. Funds can be charged to a credit or debit card only.

The site requested a distribution

for all formal classes, meaning any class with an enrollment of five or more students, Yang said.

The creators of the site believe it has its upsides, university relations director Karen Bragg said.

"Pick-A-Professor is an academic resource for students and professors to use to choose the classes best for them and also to find the cheapest text books," Bragg said.

Created by John Cunningham and Chris Chilek, the site started in April 2000 for the University of Texas Agriculture and Mechanical, spreading to the University of Texas at Austin. The company decided to go national when over 80 percent of the undergraduate students at the two universities sparked interest, Bragg said.

The Web site was created for many reasons. This can be from cheaper textbooks to student's learning styles, Bragg said.

"Learning styles vary. Some students do better with multiple choice tests, while others do better with essay tests. This helps students find the course that best fits them,"

for all formal classes, meaning any class with an enrollment of five or more students, Yang said.

It is unknown when the University will be on the Web site, but Yang senses that it will be shortly after processing occurs.

The Sunshine Law requires all schools or universities to provide the information. Yang said some schools have not replied to Pick-A-Professor when asked, and they were sued by the company, with the company Web site winning each case.

Most students have not heard of the site, however.

"Based on what I have heard about the site, students will use it and some will not due to the fact that it is not free," sophomore Devin Beach said.

The only worries about the site are if it will be abused by students or not, Yang said.

"The Web site is potential for abuse," Yang said. "Some students might be choosing classes not based on need but on if the course might be an easy class."

For more information about the site, visit Pick-A-Professor.com, or call (512) 469-9777.

CAMPUS

Woman gives views about men

By Whitney Keyes
Chief Reporter

On Monday, Northwest got the insider's view on manhood.

From a woman. Best-selling author Norah Vincent delivered a lecture Monday night in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. The discussion revolved around her novel, Self-Made Man, which reports the story of 18 months in which she disguised herself as a man.

Vincent worked as a door-to-door salesman, was part of an all male bowling league, and even spent three weeks in a monastery.

Monday's lecture was the last of the Distinguished Lecture's series, sponsored by Campus Activities.

Also, Vincent hosted a question and answer session in the afternoon in the Student Union.

This is the first year Northwest has offered the question and answer session, prior to the lectures.

"I got nothing but positive feedback about the question and answer session," Director of Campus Activities Kristen Alley said. "It was a good time for students to talk about personal goals, and get to know her better."

Questions ranged from personal questions, regarding goals of the students to Vincent's experiment.

One student even asked about the location, claiming that she looked familiar.

"Seriously, the weirder the better," Vincent said, in regards to the question asked by students.

However, not only students were in attendance at the question and answer session, or the lecture.

"I was tickled to see a good number of community members," assistant professor of psychology Alisha Francis said.

Alley expects almost 30 people at the question and answer session, and

600-700 at the lecture.

Women's History Month is March, and Vincent was scheduled to hopefully tie into the theme.

However, Francis said Vincent would be a great choice any month. Alley agreed, and also expressed an interest in seeing Women's History Month expand.

Vincent's book has been named one of the 100 most notable books of 2006, by the New York Times. She has appeared on "The O'Reilly Factor" and "Rush Limbaugh", and several other shows, including many NPR interviews.

Vincent's book is sometimes seen as controversial and unethical, which made her possibly one of the riskier choices for a speaker.

Compared to former speakers Peter Bergen, and Alex Gibney who discussed the war in Iraq, and filmmaking, Vincent's story may have been more controversial since it was personal, Alley said.

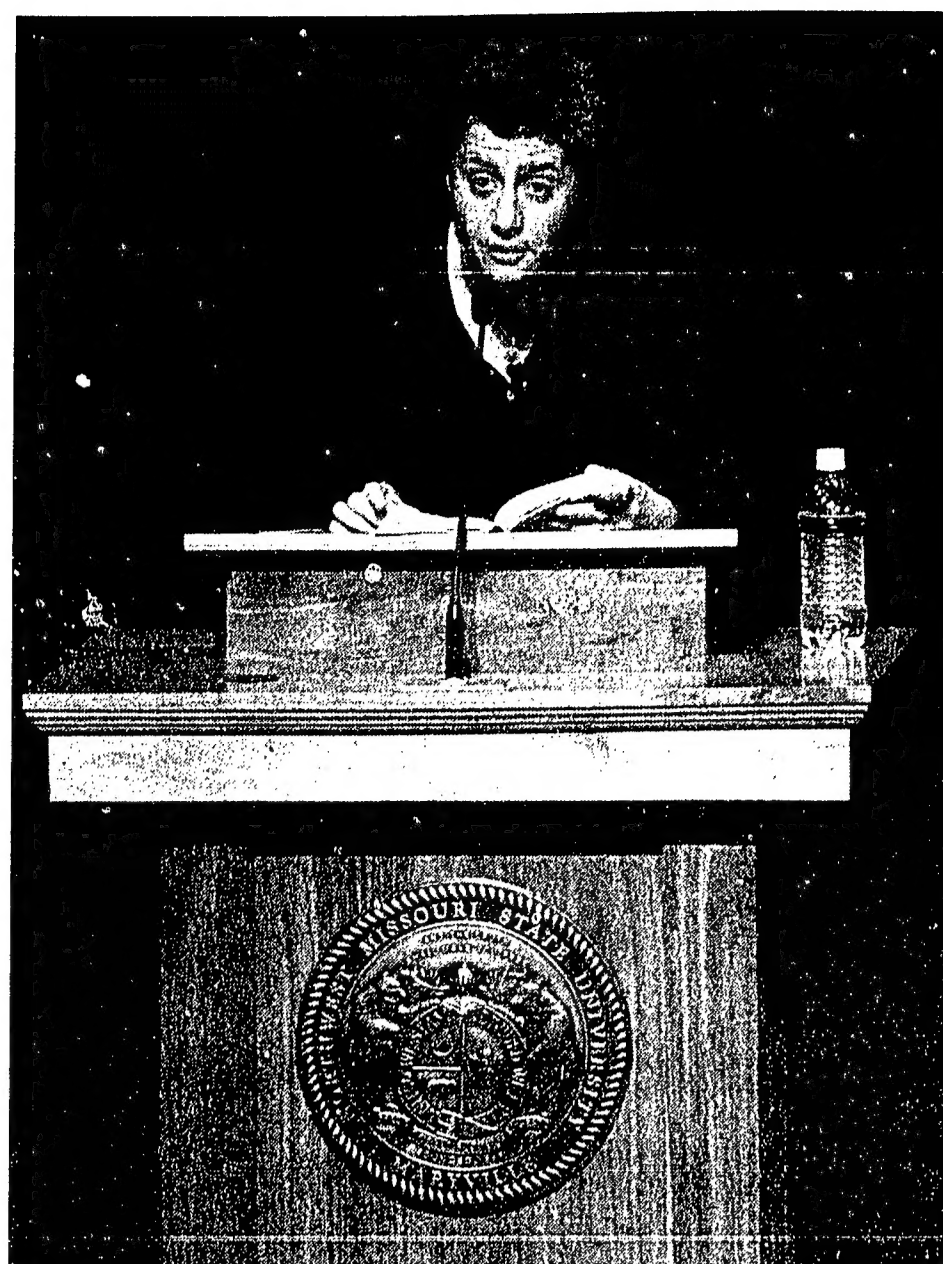
"It had potential to be controversial," she said. "But, that's not the direction the lecture or questions took, and that's fine."

Vincent, though, never aimed for the book to stir up so much controversy. She maintains the book is more about self-identity, and finding one's true self, rather than being a man or woman.

The book though is also a lesson on being "weird" or "normal" she said. One main point she stressed was that everyone is different, and no one can be fit into categories.

"You don't fit in a box. You are a person, a fabulous being. You're amorphous. You've got no boundaries," Vincent said, in the small discussion with students.

Overall, staff hoped to bring someone to campus that would attract students and community members, and would help students open their minds,



NORAH VINCENT reads an excerpt from her book, "Self-Made Man," which was written about her experience as a man, to an audience in the PAC Monday.

and think. "Hopefully, though, she have people something to think about," Alley said. "And that's what speakers should do—provoke thought and reflection."

and think.

Vincent was maybe the "least traditional" speaker Northwest has had, or maybe the most uncomfortable.

"Hopefully, though, she have people something to think about," Alley said. "And that's what speakers should do—provoke thought and reflection."

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Microsoft offers advice for small businesses online

The Northwest Missouri Small Business Development Centers announced to small business owners that Microsoft will sponsor an electronic Small Business Summit from March 19 to 23.

The summit will be available online and at certain theaters nationwide. Speakers for the event will include authors and heads of business. The NMSBDC encourages all of its clients to participate.

For more information on the summit, contact Senior Regional Director Frank Veeman at 562-1701.

MPR brings youth baseball, softball registration

Registration for the 2007 youth baseball and softball programs has begun.

Maryville Parks and Recreation will hold registration until March 30. Youth leagues are for children ages five to 15. Specific age categories can be found at the Maryville Community Center.

Parent coaches will also be needed for each team with practices beginning the week of April 23. For more information, call 562-2923.

Community Blood Center hosts blood drive at Methodist Church

The Community Blood Center will host a blood drive, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 27, at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Photo identification is required for those wanting to donate. This is a new policy in place since Jan. 1. Cholesterol levels will be tested on the blood, and donors are asked to eat well and drink plenty of fluids beforehand.

Appointments to donate may be made online at Esaveall@fnw.org by using the sponsor code "maryvillecomm." All blood donated will go to help local hospitals.

For more information on donating, contact Carol Jean Osborn at 582-8967.

Maryville Department of Public Safety prepares for severe weather

The Maryville Department of Public Safety is preparing for the severe weather months ahead.

To make sure everyone else is prepared as well they have three tips for being prepared for inclement weather.

One, know what all the different warnings mean, two, stay well informed on current weather conditions and three, plan ahead.

Countryside Christian Church hosts Easter breakfast

The Countryside Christian Church will hold a breakfast Easter morning at 7 a.m.

Breakfast will be cooked by the church's male members.

For more information call 5822191.

Parade celebrates 20th year

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

A beautiful day, a large crowd and the wearing of the green could only mean one thing. No, it's not a Bearcat football game, it's time again to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Just as in years past, the annual world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade will take place in Maryville. This year the celebration turns 20 and the host of the parade, The Palms, is planning a big party.

Manager Dan Nowosielski said anyone can participate in the parade.

"Anybody who wants to put anything in the parade can come by and put it in if they want to, no charge," Nowosielski said.

While other establishments and individuals around Maryville are planning to participate in the parade, Nowosielski said members of The Palms have their own plans for the parade as well.

"We'll do a little float trailer thing and Palms Girls will be in it throwing beads," Nowosielski said.

Nowosielski also said a tradition with the parade will continue at the conclusion.

"At the very end, the dump truck comes through and dumps green water everywhere," Nowosielski said. "The dump truck comes by and fills the tank up with water and we have a big thing of green dye we throw in there."

Maryville has been known for holding the record for the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade since Guinness World Records came to the city in 1998, however, Maryville may have a competition on their hands thanks to an annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Hot Springs, Ark. that bears the same name.

The Hot Springs version of the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade takes place on the world's shortest active street according to Leysa Roberson, a Hot Springs city official.

Robertson said representatives from Ripley's Believe it or Not came to Hot Springs in the '60s and named Bridge Street the world's shortest street.

When the St. Patrick's Day parade began taking place on the street, the celebration was dubbed the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade.

The Hot Springs parade measures 98 feet long, however, Maryville shortens its route every year to keep the Guinness World Record.

Nowosielski said this year's parade will measure out to 95.6 feet.

Both cities manage to have a Grand Marshall every year, but Hot Springs manages to bring in big celebrities like Pauly Shore and this year's Grand Marshall Mario Lopez. Maryville usually has a member of the community serve as Grand Marshall.

Nowosielski said letters have been sent out to people like the President Bush and Jay Leno to be Grand Marshall, but they are usually turned down or don't have a response.

Maryville's world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade is scheduled for 3:17 p.m. on March 17.

Students to raise money for troops

By Andrea James
Chief Reporter

Maryville High School students will hold an event to show support for local troops.

MHS faculty and students invite the community to raise money for the 129th Field Artillery B Battery unit located in Fort Dix, N.J., Monday, March 19, through Friday, March 23, said Janet Jelavich, Maryville High School English department chair. Fourteen of the 70 troops in this unit are MHS graduates.

The money raised will go to items such as games, DVDs and CDs to entertain soldiers in their down time and other things the entire unit can use.

MHS will hold a week-long penny drive and an intramural basketball tournament Wednesday, March 21.

"The goal is not so much the making of money but letting the soldiers know we support them," Jelavich said.

Eight teams will participate in the intramural basketball tournament in MHS gymnasium, she said. There is a fee of \$20 for each team to enter and the winning team will play a MHS faculty team. There is no charge for admission; however, donations for the troops will be accepted.

The project started in Jelavich's English classes and now it is a school wide event, she said. Her English 4

students, Brooke Veer in particular, came up with the idea to support their troops. They tried to think what would benefit soldiers the most.

"It is important they know people here are thinking of them and that they are not forgotten," Veer said.

Veer's boyfriend, Specialist Aaron Auten, is one of the local military men located at Fort Dix. Auten graduated in 2005 and has been in the military since his junior year, she said.

MHS student Ryan Schieber has also helped with the event; he has a family member in the troop. In January, Schieber and fellow classmates wrote letters to Joshua Schieber, Ryan's brother. Every soldier received a letter from a student.

Joshua has been in Fort Dix since November, Ryan said. He is a combat medic and has been in military since October 2003.

A core group of four or five students started planning for fundraiser in December, Jelavich said. They met in the mornings and during class to organize the event.

"The students organized everything. I think it's important for students to be involved in community service and to be active in the community," Jelavich said.

Jelavich would also like to see the community support the troops and donate.

'BRIGHT, SUNSHINY DAY'



TWO-YEAR-OLD Charity Sutton hangs on tight to her bucket of sidewalk chalk and puppy, Cassie, Tuesday afternoon at Bear Park. Charity's family spent some time at Bear drawing in the parking lot and playing on the playground.

Streetscape project looking for dollars

By Marcus Meade
Community News Editor

The city of Maryville's town square will undergo renovations in the upcoming months—if they can find the money to finish them.

Officials are in the process of fund raising to acquire the \$500,000 necessary to bridge the gap between the amount needed for the Streetscape renovation project and the amount they have so far.

The city council accepted the roughly \$1.5 million bid from Loch Sand and Construction to renovate the downtown square area.

"We've broken the project up into various phases," City Manager Mike Rietz said. "So that we could find out how much it would take to do a certain amount of the project because we knew we didn't have enough money to do the whole thing."

Funds raised so far have come from a grant given by the federal

government and donations from businesses and individuals, some of which are part of a tax credit, Rietz said.

Loch Sand and Construction is doing its part to help bridge the gap as well by cutting its costs by \$25,000, Rietz said.

"We are close to having enough money, plus contingency, to do phase one," Rietz said. "...about \$50,000."

With the "base bid" phase of the project beginning this spring and phase one close to its fund raising goal, Rietz recognizes that with not all the funds available for phases two and three the project may not be finished in one year.

To help hurry the pace of fund raising, the Campaign for Community Renewal, which has been instrumental in fund raising for this project, will also do its part to help raise the money needed.

"The downtown trend in the United States has been going down-

hill," said Joyce Cronin, fund raising chairwoman for the CCR. "It's something that's been tried, but now, it's getting done."

Cronin's afraid that those trials and subsequent failures have made the community leery about downtown renovation.

Citizens may be leery about renovation, but fund raising may be up to them.

The money for the rest of the project will come entirely from donations, Cronin said. One of the donation methods made available for people is the purchasing of bricks.

For \$250 a person can purchase a brick that will be placed around the courthouse. This brick is often in memory of a loved one or recognizing different families in Maryville, Cronin said.

"Our goal is to just keep it going," Cronin said. "So that there will always be money to keep them going until it's finished."

THUMBS UP!

Whatever you're after, just thumb through the Classifieds and you'll be good to go!

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NWMISSOURIAN
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MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

Nutrition Counseling services are available through Campus Dining to all students.

Julie Livengood, Registered Dietitian

Appointments made by calling 562-1252 or email live@nwmissouri.edu

Julie is also available at the Wellness Center every Wednesday from 1pm-4pm.

Salon 1

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Patty Spire
Joni Bargman
Terri Lager

We Can Cut Your Favorite Team's Name in Your Hair

Northwest BE WELL Committee and St. Francis Hospital and Health Services presents

'CAT WALK 2007' & Health Fair

Benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Saturday, March 31
at Bearcat Arena
Health Fair from 8am to 11am
Walk from 9am to 11am

Cholesterol Screening - \$15.00 - (10 hour fast recommended) • Bone Density Scans - FREE • Blood Pressure Screening - FREE • Lung Function Screening - FREE • Cat Walk t-shirt - FREE

Please bring clean shoes to walk in Bearcat Arena.

Join the BE WELL Committee and St. Francis Hospital & Health Services for a fun-filled morning! Pre-registration participants will receive a special 'Cat Walk for Cystic Fibrosis' t-shirt and have the opportunity to walk, run, or jog (you decide) around the track of Bearcat Arena.

REGISTRATION DUE BY March 18 Please enclose \$2 pre-registration fee per person. Register at the Northwest Student Services or St. Francis Hospital and Health Services.

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REQUIEM FOR A FALL GUY

OURVIEW

St. Jude effort applauded

It's not every day a campus can come together and unite behind a common cause.

We at the Northwest Missourian would like to commend the individuals and Greek organizations that raised a total of \$51,754 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the inaugural "Up 'til Dawn" event. The groups surpassed their original goal of \$50,000.

St. Jude is a research hospital that offers medical services regardless of a families' ability to pay. The hospital is also a pioneer in medical research.

It's also not every day that we get to commend a group or individuals for their charity work, but Northwest's "Up 'til Dawn" event even surprised St. Jude. St. Jude director Veronica Petree said Northwest students did far better than schools of this size.

Friday night Northwest students came together to stay up all night in honor of those family members and friends who stay up with their loved ones through the pain and devastation cancer bestows on families.

The event consisted of everything from Sumo wrestling to performances by Towncrier and Grasshopper Takeover. But the most touching moment of the night was when cancer survivors stepped forward to the microphone in front of the performance stage to speak about how St. Jude had helped their families and to thank Northwest students for their generosity.

Standing with her 8-year-old daughter Natalie, Northwest alumna Tausha Taylor began to weep thinking back on how much St. Jude had helped her daughter. After being diagnosed with brain cancer, the cancer spread to her orbital socket and her eye had to be removed. At the end of this month, Natalie will get a surgery to replace the eye at St. Jude.

"Just knowing that I have extra time with her is most important to me," Taylor said.

She owes that extra time in part to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and generous students like those at Northwest.

Our hats off to you, participants: Without the 9,000 letters you sent out and the numerous other fund raisers, none of this would have been possible.

MYVIEW

Daylight Savings Time has perks

The idea of Daylight Saving Time creates a multitude of feelings for different people; some people hate it, some are confused by it and I love it.

Even though there is a risk of being late for work or school because I forgot to set my clocks back or losing an hour of sleep, spring's Daylight Saving Time has its good qualities.

For starters, it seems like everything and everyone are happier; the birds are singing, people actually say hello



Andrea James
Chief Reporter

to strangers now and even the squirrels seem more chipper.

During the fall and winter months people seem grumpy and tend to give me dirty looks when I smile and say hi. They fold their arms across their heavy coats, look at me from the corner of their down turned eyes and walk faster,

possibly thinking the quicker they walk, the less likely I will see them.

Now, people walk with their heads high and mouths smiling. They proudly strut across campus and say hello to anybody who walks by.

Even the squirrels seem more outgoing. They climb up and down trees, chase each other around in circles and they might even get close enough to touch.

Another good quality of this event is that it is a sign of spring. There are leaves growing, flowers sprouting and there seems to be more light to take advantage of.

When I step outside in the morning, I am amazed to find that it is dark; the cool air hits my face as I walk down the sidewalk at 7

a.m. The dark sky slowly fades to a medium blue as I look to the east and birds are singing to welcome a new day.

As the day progresses, the sun's warm rays send down a good time feeling that lasts well into the evening.

The extended light makes it feel like I have more time to accomplish everything I need to and gives me motivation.

I also love that I can go for a walk later in the day without worries of it getting dark. I can casually walk down the streets of Maryville.

I would much rather spring forward than fall back.

MYVIEW

Online dating worth a try

Call me bored. Call me curious. Call me dissatisfied with the male dating pool in Maryville.

Some may call it desperate or weird. But most of those people are from small towns where Internet dating is like some foreign concept they are afraid to get within an arms reach of—afraid it's going to rub off on them like the plague or the Bearcat Clap.

I like to refer to myself eclectically. I like a variety of different personality traits and I love the idea of being able to pick and choose compatibility factors. I don't understand how this immediately makes me ugly, desperate or lame.

I think the idea is ingenious. For a low monthly cost or



Stephanie Stangl
Editor-in-Chief

sometimes free, you can jump online and enter in who you are and what you're looking for. In addition to finding a job, furniture or roommate, you can also use Craigslist.com, an online classified site, to find a potential date for absolutely free. You get to ask for and get sometimes exactly what you want instead of wasting weeks or

months of dating to find out you aren't compatible at least on a tolerable level. I've had friends complain of the men they find at the bar only wanting a one-night stand, but yet I'm lectured on how a man I met on the Internet could be an axe murderer. I guess I have more faith in human beings than believing

every person I don't know on the Internet. One of whom I dated for nine months and the other who I dated for two months. We got that awkward dinner out of the way because going into it we knew tons about each other.

I've gone on dates with two guys I've met on the Internet. One of whom I dated for nine months and the other who I dated for two months. We got that awkward dinner out of the way because going into it we knew tons about each other.

We knew we already had the same views on religion, politics and future goals. I already knew they didn't smoke cigarettes and occasionally drank like I do. I knew they both read books and enjoyed intelligent conversation. No guessing, no awkward tap dance. We already knew going in we were going to have things in

common. Or, more, with blind dating in general safety precautions need to be taken. You should always get to know the person as much as possible, meet in a place around lots of people and always tell someone where you're going and who you're going with.

I say if you're single and don't want to be anymore, it's worth a shot. What do you have to lose? It's time to throw this antiquated notion out of the window of how "weird" Internet dating is and realize it's an acceptable option for singles.

So judge me if you will or take a chance on finding someone who could be your soul mate. I'm here to say I am not desperate or weird and would much rather take my chances with the some of the men on the Internet than some of the men of Maryville and the good old Bearcat Clap.

COMMENTS FROM NWMISSOURIAN NEWS.COM

In response to "Maryville short on money for changes"

Paul Thompson posted 3/9/07

Has anyone thought why sales tax revenues are down in the City of Maryville? Maybe the city should take a look to the West side of town. I speak of the University. Has the University considered the impact of all its online offerings? I think not. As a business owner, & I have had this conversation with other local business owners & university professors, I have seen first hand the impact of so many online offerings that one could almost never have to sit in a classroom to get a degree. It is most easily seen during the summer tri-merge where there was once quite a few students still in Maryville to almost none now. Don't look at overall enrollment figures, but the breakdown showing online versus total. This basically means that there is no outside influx of spending dollars in the city which in turn means loss of sales tax revenue. Think about it, if kids can go home, live for free, take classes on a computer when they feel like it, why would they stay in Maryville?

Maybe somebody should ask why aren't the number of online classes limited? Don't take my word for it, just ask other local businesses such as restaurants, retail, e-stores, landlords, etc. I think you will find a disturbing link between everything.

Anonymous posted 3/9/07

Although I believe it is important that Northwest be a responsible part of the community, I do not believe it is the responsibility of Northwest to support it. Unfortunately it seems the business people of Maryville have depended on students for so long without actually catering to their lifestyle. Being a student is a lifestyle, but Maryville seems to have developed a community that focuses on the residents and the students separately. Until business leaders decide they can make the city of Maryville a place that people (both students and others) will want to be and live, more people will stay away. Let's be honest, Maryville is a rural community in an age of large cities. Opportunity exists in areas with a large population. Why

wouldn't a student want to receive their higher education in a place where they can make a decent living at the same time?

So I put it to this business person that it is not a time to regulate the school and its success, but to reexamine your own business practices, take charge of the situation and make your business a place that attracts more patrons.

Do not try to change the institution you rely upon to make a living to suit your needs, change your practices to roll with the changes.

PT posted 3/9/07

I don't think you are quite understanding my point.

I believe businesses DO try to make Maryville a place that everybody wants to live. Look at the businesses here.

Do you think restaurants, Applebees for example, would

locate here if they didn't think they could generate the revenues? I am a proud NW grad myself & did move back to Maryville for many of the reasons that attracted me to it in the first place.

I also feel that one cannot get the same education from an online class, or life experiences for that matter, rather than actually stepping foot into Maryville.

The main point is this, we all know that X amount of sales tax revenue is generated by student spending.

If students are not physically in Maryville, then that revenue is not generated & thus the City does not have that money to spend on improvements.

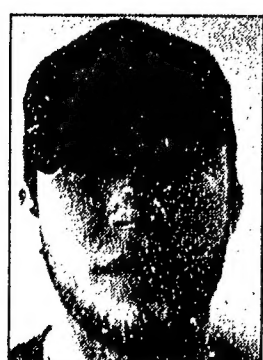
If businesses are trying to fill students needs & they are not staying here, then what is the reason?

If you, Anonymous, can think of a better reason & can substantiate it, please enlighten us.

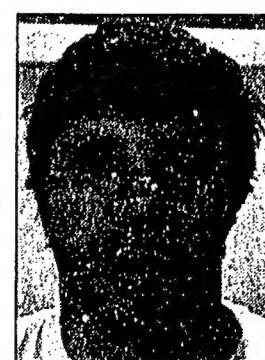
Have an opinion about our opinion? Let us know online at NWmissourianews.com

CAMPUSTALK

What is your ultimate Spring Break?



"Colorado because of the skiing and scenery,"
Corey Simmons
Geography



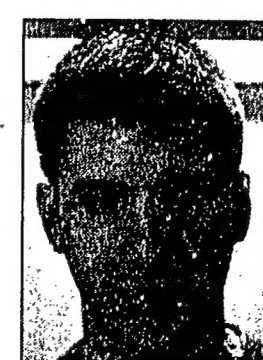
"Somewhere warm and on the beach,"
Zach Sherman
Physical Education



"California because I've never been there,"
Kerrie Balas
Sociology



"Ireland to watch an international soccer game,"
Tyler Schmidt
Secondary Education



"A week in Colorado because I've never been to go skiing,"
Travis Rinehart
Diving

PUBLIC SAFETY

Feb. 28

■Property damage, vehicle damage, 2600 block S. Main
■Matthew M. Messick, 29, Maryville, DWI, 300 block E. First.

March 2

■Larceny/Theft, Coat and contents, 300 block N. Market

March 4

■Lennie E. Mabin Jr., 24, St. Joseph, Mo, DWI second, driving while revoked and careless and imprudent driving

■Janelle L. David, 24, Maryville, trespassing

■Larceny from a vehicle, tuxedo, brown purse, 900 block S. Dunn.

March 6

■Zachary E. Chambers, 20, Maryville, possession of 35 grams or less of marijuana, failure to maintain right half of roadway, 1000 block N. Buchanan

■Larceny/Theft, Ongoing Investigation, 1800 block S. Main

March 7

■Grant E. McCollum, 21, Maryville, DWI second, 400 block N. Walnut

March 8

■Ryan S. Rush, 19, Maryville, DWI, speeding, 1700 block N. Grand Ave
■Property damage, vehicle damage, 315 block S. Vine

ACCIDENTS

March 7
■Kathleen G. Kelly, 16, Maryville, collided with Leslie L. Combs, 56, Maryville, at Munn and Highland Ave. Kelly was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

BIRTHANNOUNCEMENTS

Jayden Lee Puckett

Jayden Lee Puckett was born March 5, 2007, to parents Clarissa and Ron Puckett, Maryville, Mo., at St. Francis Hospital.

Jayden weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and joins brother Blake Beederstadt and sister Natasha Puckett.

Grandparents are Janice Kam, St. Joseph, Mo., Ralph White, Maryville, and Bonnie Makings, Maryville.

Great-grandparent is Betty Coufman, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Owen William Martin

Owen William Martin was born March 2, 2007, to parents Rolland and Cynthia Martin, Sheridan, Mo., at St. Francis Hospital.

Owen weighed 7 pounds. Grandparents are Bill and Rosalee Kelley, Hopkins, Mo., Carla and Larry Vore, Pickering, Mo., and Curtis and Marsha Martin, Hopkins.

Great-grandparents are Betty Kelley, Clearmont, Mo., Marvin and Karen Ebling, St. Joseph, Mo., and Bill and Carol Spalding, Hopkins.

Great-grandmother is Mimi Wolverton, St. Joseph.

OBITUARIES

Alpha Mary (Wilkinson) Midyett, 79, of Ravenwood, died Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at Arbor View Nursing Home, St. Joseph.

She was born, Alpha Mary Wilkinson on Aug. 27, 1927 in Enyart, Mo., the daughter of Lester Martin and Alta Condola (Smith) Wilkinson. She married Robert "Eldon" Midyett Dec. 5, 1946 in Troy, Kan.

Mary was a member of the Ravenwood United Methodist Church and the Curry Richardson Sparks Waldieir American Legion Post #528 Auxiliary, both of Ravenwood.

She was a homemaker and had been a cook for the Northeast

away School District.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Eldon Midyett (July 24, 2003); her parents; a brother, Lester Martin Wilkinson JR and a sister, Betty Jean Wilkinson.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law: Bob and Judy Midyett, Ravenwood; four grandchildren: Darryl Weems, Ravenwood; Melissa Durdin, Fairview, Okla.; Amy Dewey, Savannah, Mo., and Stacy Danner, Cameron, Mo.; 10 great-grandchildren and four sisters: Carol Jean Palmer, Donna Riley, Beverly Walker and Shirley Downing, all of Maryville.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at Price Funeral Home, Maryville.

Funeral Services are 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 16 at Price Funeral Home Chapel, Maryville, with burial in Oak Lawn Cemetery, Ravenwood.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association in Mary's name.

Karl E. Rowlett, 70, of Maitland, died Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo.

Born on Nov. 11, 1936 in Skidmore, Mo., he was the son of the late Bird & Alta (Stults) Rowlett.

He was of the Methodist faith. Until his illness he had been employed with St. Joseph Wilbert Vault Company and prior to that opened graves for several cemeteries.

He is survived by his devoted wife Sharon R. (Willitt) Rowlett whom he married on April 25, 1958 in Oak Grove, Mo., loving children, Tammy Reeves, Maitland, Karla Noble, Kearney, Mo., Alan Rowlett, Independence, Mo., Rosemary Rowlett, of the home, sister, Carol Carr, Kearney, five grandsons, Jonathan, Nicholas, Michael, James, Brian, Kristy, three great-grandchildren, Sarah, Chrystian, Nicholas, beloved son-in-law, Darle Noble, beloved granddaughters by marriage, Michele & Nikki.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and five sisters.

Memorial Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 17 at the Danfelt Funeral Home, 951 S. Main Street. There will be no viewing or visitation. Rowlett was cremated under the trusted care of Danfelt Funeral Home. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Charlotte Claudine (Loch) Wilson, 78, of Maryville, died Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital, Maryville.

She was born Oct. 4, 1928 in Ravenwood, the daughter of Claude and Della (O'Banion) Loch. A 1946 graduate of Ravenwood High School, Charlotte married L.D. "Mitt" Wilson July 13, 1946 in Troy, Kan.

Wilson was a member of the Ravenwood Christian Church and had worked at the K-Mart Store in Maryville as a sales clerk.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Mitt Wilson, June 16, 2003 and her parents.

Survivors include six sons: Jerry Wilson, Liberty, Mo.; John Wilson, Mexico; James Wilson, Newton, Iowa; Steven Wilson, Mitchell, Wilson and Mark Wilson, all of Maryville; five daughters: Janet Perkins, Phoenix, Ariz.; Joyce Rankin, Maryville; Joni Welch, Warner Robins, Georgia; Lori Nelson, Middleburg, Fla.; and Debbie Jobst, Maryville; 22 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a brother: Robert Loch Sr. and sister: Shirley Crater, both of Maryville.

Wilson's family met for burial services Saturday, March 10, 2007 in Oak Lawn Cemetery, Ravenwood.

NICE VIEW



FRESHMEN SARAH WOODY and LISA PORTER check out a group "boys without shirts" walking by as Natalie Swope enjoys some shut eye. "We've been here long enough to see the track team run by, the tennis team play... who knows how long we'll be here," Woody said.

Photo by Amy Anderson, Missouri photographer

Eggers takes principal position

By Whitney Keyes
Chief Reporter

Next school year, there will be a new Spoothound in charge.

Jason Eggers will become the new Maryville High School principal, active July 1. Eggers is currently the principal of Mound City Junior-Senior High School.

Ron Landherr will be ending his 15 years as current principal at MHS. Landherr's contract has been renewed. The MHS position has been posted since before winter break. After receiving applications, candidates were reviewed through screening and

interviewing committees. "I also made time to sit down with the student council, and see what they wanted out of a principal," Superintendent Vickie Miller said. "I did the same thing with community members and parents."

After much consideration, and recommendations made to Miller, she recommended Eggers to the school board. On March 9, an official press release was sent out, declaring Eggers as the new MHS principal.

Eggers, who received his bachelor's and masters degrees from Northwest, is currently working with the University on his Education Specialist

degree in educational administration. Though he was a vocal music teacher for four years at MCHS, he jumped for the chance of an administrative position.

"I've always wanted to do that. It was the goal to go right into administrative work," Eggers said. Throughout his seven years as principal, MCHS was awarded the titles of Missouri Gold Star School in 2004, and also a NCLB Blue Ribbon School in 2005.

Currently, Eggers oversees 140 students between seventh and 12th grade. At MHS, that number will increase to around 500. This jump will be quite the change, Eggers said, seeing as how he

knows even the names of the elementary school students in his district.

"We are a very close-knit school," Eggers said.

However, despite the changes, he said he is still very excited to move back to Maryville with his family, and work at MHS. Though Miller said she had no desired, specific changes for MHS in mind, she also is excited to see Eggers serve as the new principal.

"Every administrator has their own style of leadership, they do things their own way," Miller said. "I'm looking forward to see what he's got for Maryville High School."

UP 'TIL DAWN: Students celebrate surpassing St. Jude goal

continued from A1

famy members going through chemo and things like that."

A total of \$51,152 was raised over the course of the school year in Northwest's inaugural participation with the hospital. An additional \$600 was raised at the door of the finale for next year, Petree said.

"Otherschools, like larger schools, raise lots and lots of money, but we did exceptionally well for a first year school," Petree said. "Usually for first year schools, they don't expect you to because there's not a lot of publicity, nobody knows about it."

Included with the large amount of money raised came goal breakers set by both the St. Jude organization and the group itself.

A goal of \$50,000 was set by the group. "That was our personal goal," Peterson said. "St. Jude's goal for us was only thirty (thousand)."

In all, everything led to one big evening.

While running feet, echoing racquetballs and loud grunts are the usual sounds of the Northwest Student Recreation Center, for one night it became the center of a large fund raising festivity.

From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. families, students, as well as the Executive Members of Up 'til Dawn got to enjoy eight hours of fun, games and music.

There were inflatable games, a spa room, karaoke and a Texas hold'em tournament. The Bearcat Step-

pers made an appearance and two bands, Grasshopper Takeover and Towncrier, rocked the house.

Hailing from Omaha, Neb., Grasshopper Takeover lead singer Curtis Grubb said he, along with the band, enjoyed playing at charity events.

"We always try to get in three, four, five a year," Grubb said. "It helps be in touch with the community, do good things."

No stranger to Maryville, Grasshopper Takeover has played the University as well as The Pub.

"It ends up being another piece of the pie in regards to our purpose," Grubb said. "Playing charity and benefit shows, it's one more feather in our cap. It's a breath of fresh air, it's always enjoyable."

The first step to the success was getting training. Petree and Peterson set off to Memphis last summer to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. There they learned fundraising skills to raise money throughout Maryville and the University campus.

"You can tell it's such a different hospital and that's why I chose this," Petree said. "It sounds cliché to say, but you really just fall in love with the hospital down there. When you get to visit, you see how much the children love the hospital and how much of an impact you're making."

After returning from Tennessee, recruitment for the group began. Amy Kirkendall, a Northwest student, grasped the responsibilities.

"Since it is the first year, we had nothing laid out," Kirkendall said.

"We did it all in about two months, but all of us are Greeks, so we had Homecoming before, so it was really hectic."

The process Kirkendall used to recruit was spread throughout the campus handing out pamphlets explaining facts about the hospital.

Once things were finalized, the fund raising took off.

With the many things the group did, Petree said two of the engagements played a big role.

The group sold St. Jude bracelets at Burger King for an evening and

had a speaker come when their group t-shirts were distributed.

Despite being the finale, there is just one more fund raising event occurring.

"We're doing a garage sale," Petree said. "We actually had to postpone it, we were hoping to do it before this finale but because of the weather we're doing it April 1."

The community has already lent a helping hand.

"Even community teachers are asking to donate their stuff to sell for profit for St. Jude," Petree said.

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Advertising: 660-5

CENTER: Center may receive more funds than previously expected

continued from A1

The University of Missouri lost buildings at its Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis campuses. Projects at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis and Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo., were also removed.

Blunt's plan to fund the university construction projects through the sale of \$350 million in assets from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority has faced significant criticism from Jefferson City politicians since it was introduced to the legislature last month.

The governor removed the five projects in an effort to satisfy embryonic stem cell research opponents

who were worried those buildings would be used to carry out that type of research.

Despite the changes, Missouri Right to Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group, remains opposed to the measure, and is currently lobbying against its passage.

In addition, some of the plan's critics believe taking the \$350 million from MOHELA would weaken its ability to provide affordable loans to college students.

The Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative projects are part of Senate Bill 889. As of press time, the bill was laid over and no decision was made by the Senate. The bill will be discussed on the floor at a later date.

AUTISM: Local child copes with autism, trying to communicate

continued from A1

of a death by coping with denial, grief and then acceptance when their child is diagnosed with autism, Roush said.

However, many parents become proactive by providing additional services for their child. The Francis family treats Tony as a blessing.

"People can learn a lot from those with disabilities and until you walk in someone else's shoes, you don't know what they need," said Diane Francis, Tony's mother.

As Tony jumps off the school bus every afternoon, the driver gives a thumbs up or a thumbs down to the Francis family based on Tony's bus behavior.

"He's got splinter skills, where he can be perfect in some areas and in other areas, he is years behind," Diane said.

Because many children with autism must be on a special diet, Tony gobbles down a banana and takes a vitamin with juice—a gluten-free, egg-free and corn-free after-school snack.

Upstairs, their house feels warm and cozy with inviting furniture and family pictures. Downstairs, their house transforms into a classroom plastered with brightly colored posters and filled with games, flashcards and educational videos.

Tony sits with a college student tutor three hours each night for intense therapy. Because he is unable to communicate through speaking, they read and learn through sign language to improve his social and speech skills.

"Tony is 11-years-old, but he's going through things a 5 or 6-year old would go through. It is chronological age versus

developmental age and speech and social skills are our huge obstacles," Diane said.

Although the study left unanswered questions on autism's causes, researchers said the findings may lead toward more government funding for early intervention and autism services.

In some cases, early intervention may help lead to losing the autistic diagnosis or being mainstreamed in schools and society, according to Thehelp-

group.org. "So many (autistic children) are brilliant people, but we treat them like a waste if we don't find out what causes it or how to treat it," said Judy Lawyer, retired special education teacher at Maryville High School. "The more early interventions, the better off everyone is going to be."

The Francis family moved to Maryville to provide Tony with the special services he needs in school. They have relocated three times to different school districts to accommodate Tony's needs with developmental services.

"Schools have a hard time with funding these special services and although it is a burden for schools, they must do it," Roger Francis, Tony's father, said.

Worried that Tony might not fit in at school, his mother made a booklet, "All About Me, Tony Francis," to show his new classmates on the first day of school why he is different.

Despite his disabilities, peers still want to sit next to Tony on the bus, play with him at recess and treat him as one of their own every day.

"We just need to enjoy them as they are and learn to see how they see the world," Diane said.



NORTHWEST SOPHOMORE Jason Lacy gets his picture taken with magazine model Brooke Banx on Friday night at the Outback's Pre-Spring Break Bash. Banx, who resides in Los Angeles, spent most of the night signing autographs and answering questions from the crowd.

Outback banks on Banx

By Marcus Meade
Community News

The old mixed with the young. The men mixed with the women, and regulars mixed with the three-for-one-nights at the World Famous Outback hosted its Pre-Spring Break Bash, Friday.

The doors opened at 8:30 p.m., but the event really began with the arrival of the night's star, magazine model Brooke Banx.

She spent the night signing autographs, taking pictures and engaging in conversation. While some wanted a simple photo, others wanted more.

"I want to take her home with me," said Maryville resident Eli Hansen.

Roughly 325 people attended the party to meet Banx and catch prizes thrown from the balcony, owner Anthony Campobasso said.

The event is something Campobasso wants to continue. He would like to make the pre-spring break party an annual event, he said.

Though the event was geared towards men, Campobasso said, he was pleasantly surprised by the female turnout.

Maryville resident Rachel Crawford was among the women who chatted with Banx.

"It's just as much fun for a girl as it is for a guy. It might be even more fun," Crawford said. "I can appreciate a girl's body."

Banx spends a lot of her time at parties. The hardest part is the lack of sleep.

"I have not slept in four days," she said. "You can only do so many parties."

Going to parties as a form of employment doesn't keep Banx from going out on her own time, however. She parties a lot in her hometown of Los Angeles, she said.

One of the main purposes of having this event was to show Banx that this town could party with the best of them, Campobasso said.

Campobasso's plan fell a little short in some areas. The bikini contest that was planned was canceled due to lack of entries.

"My sister tried to get me to do it," Crawford said. "But I don't look good in a bikini."

A lack of advertising for the contest may have caused the low number of contestants, Campobasso said.

Overall, Campobasso will chalk this event up as a win.

"I would definitely consider it a success. I really wanted Northwest to represent," he said. "...It will only get bigger and bigger."

INSIDE

Northwest Basketball B2
NW Track, Softball, Baseball, Tennis B3
NCAA Div. II Tournament Brackets B4/B5
The Stroller B7

—MHS BASKETBALL

Walter shines in junior season

By Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

Standing in the batter's box, Andy Walter prepares for another season in Maryville green and yellow.

In addition to digging for extra base hits on the baseball diamond, the junior quarterbacked the Spoothounds on the gridiron last fall.

While scintillating and appealing to spectators, football and baseball, in Walter's eyes, fall short of the sport where he truly masters his craft.

Monday night, Walter was named first-team All-Midland Empire Conference for his play on the basketball court.

see WALTER on B2

—MHS BASKETBALL

2 'Hounds receive conference honors

By David Lambie
Missourian Reporter

The accolades are rolling in for two members of the Maryville High School basketball teams.

The Midland Empire Conference's all-conference awards were announced Monday night, and Andy Walter and Jacyln Guess made the list. As a junior, Walter made the 10 man all-conference team, while Guess, a senior, received honorable mention.

Head boy's coach Mike Kuwitzky said Walter, along with the rest of the team, produced an enjoyable experience.

"They were a great group of guys that had a lot of class and nice parents," Kuwitzky said.

Kuwitzky also stated how Walter's work ethic helped him land a spot on the all-conference list.

"(Walter) was very dedicated," Kuwitzky said. "He had a good year shooting... and you could always find him shooting somewhere."

Walter's honor can be attributed to the team's strong dedication and positive attitude Kuwitzky said.

Head girl's coach Grant Hageman had much of the same praise for Guess. Hageman said Guess was always a threat on the offensive and defensive end.

"She was definitely a leader for us on the court," Hageman said. "She brought an attitude to this team."

Hard work and the team's never-say-die attitude helped Guess garner this honor Hageman said.

As the only two 'Hounds to make all-conference, Guess and Walter joined players from teams such as district champions Smithville and St. Joseph Benton. The Cardinals won the Class 4 girl's basketball championship this year.

"Making all-conference in our conference says a lot," Kuwitzky said.



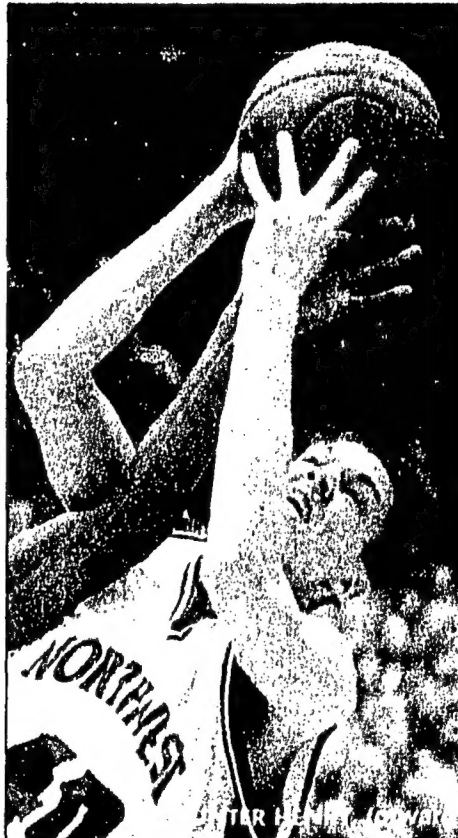
SPORTS

MISSOURIAN

THURSDAY
March 15, 2007

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—NW MEN'S BASKETBALL



Semifinal slip

See B3 for full article



NORTHWEST GUARD Lance Sullivan walks off the court as the Central Missouri State Mules celebrate in the background after the Bearcats lost to the Mules 72-61 during the semifinal game held in Warrensburg, Mo.

—NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



NORTHWEST GUARD April Miller and forward Ashley Baker walk as the final seconds of the game against West Texas A&M, held at the Missouri Western Field house on Friday afternoon. Northwest lost to West Texas A&M 87-72.

Success builds bright future

By Scott Levine
Community Sports Editor

As the final seconds withered away on the Northwest women's basketball season, disappointment flooded the player's faces.

The team took the No. 2 seed West Texas A & M to the final buzzer before realizing the tournament dream was over. As the disappointment subsided, a different expression crept upon the player's faces.

This new outlook focused on anticipation. Sophomore forward Meghan Brue summed up this attitude after the first round exit.

"This is something to build on," Brue said. "Our goal this year was to advance to regionals. But being a stepping stone for next year when our goal will be to win the regionals."

All-conference selections Brue and Mandi Schumacher return next year, along with seven

other teammates. Katie O'Grady is the lone senior on a team that finished 18-13 overall and made Northwest's fourth ever trip to the regional tournament.

As next season's outlook appears to be favorable, Northwest coach Gene Steinmeyer cautions against looking too far ahead.

"There are so many things that can happen," Steinmeyer said. "The strength of the conference and other different variables change from year to year. What we have to do next year is to take the next step."

By taking the next step, Northwest must join the top tier of a conference that featured three teams ranked nationally at one point during the season. But reaching those teams' realms seemed like a distant dream only weeks into the conference season.

After building a 9-3 record, the 'Cats looked like

a team destined to challenge for a top spot in the conference. But falling in the next two out of three games reduced Steinmeyer's confidence.

Then Pittsburg State rolled into Bearcat Arena. The Gorillas brought a 7-7 record into a place where the 'Cats had lost only one game all season.

As the team exited the building that night, however, one aspect became certain. Northwest's chances at the regional tournament were in serious jeopardy.

But following the three-point setback, Steinmeyer said one player started understanding the team's urgency.

"If it was one main person, it would have to be Brue," Steinmeyer said. "She was the first to come out and say each game was a must-win. We picked it up from there."

see FUTURE on B3

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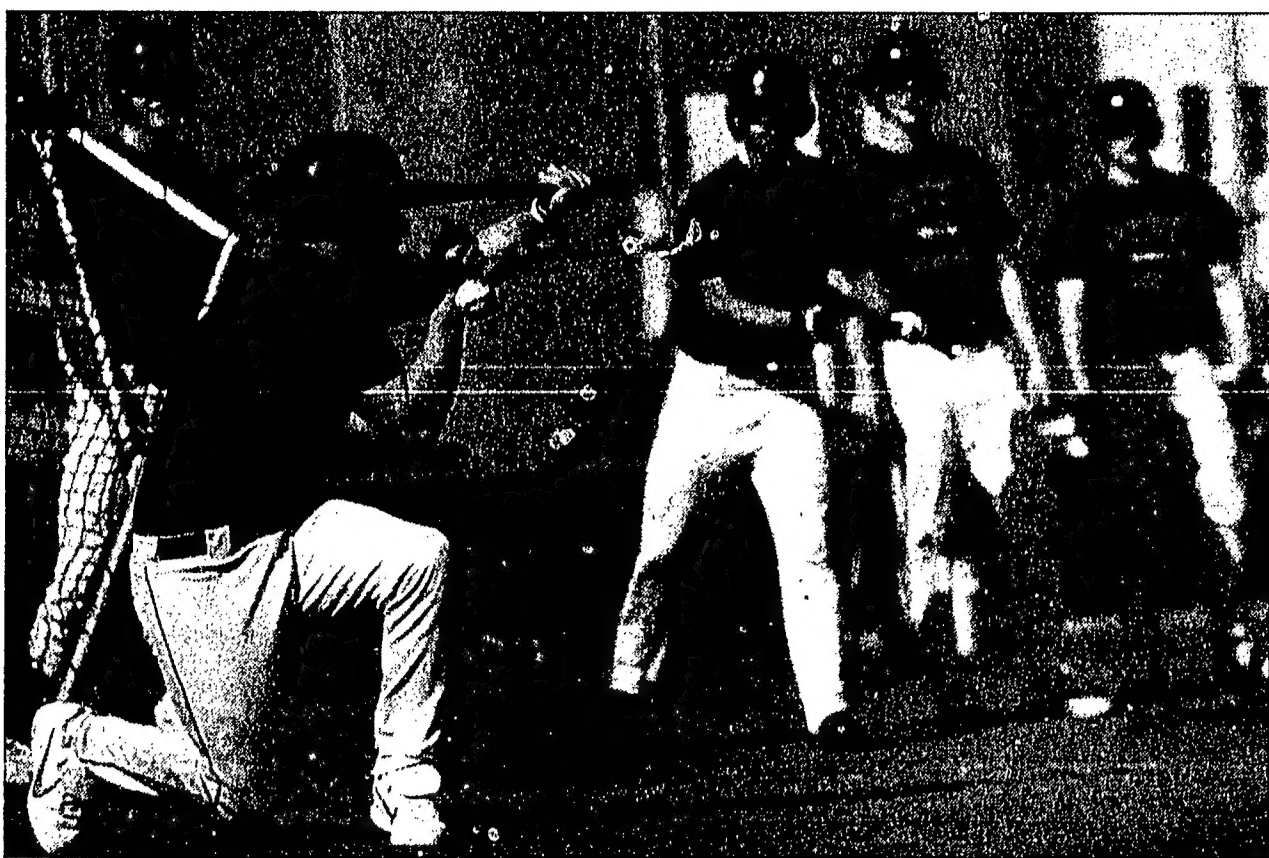
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—NW BASEBALL



NORTHWEST BASEBALL player Ryan Rush loses control of the bat during bunting practice held on the baseball field on Tuesday afternoon. The next home game will be this Friday at noon.

'Cats destroy Golden Eagles

By Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

Saying the Northwest baseball team swept Minnesota-Crookston would be the understatement of the year. In a four-game series last weekend, the Beacats obliterated the Golden Eagles, recording four double-digit wins with a combined score of 75-9 at Kansas City's Rockhurst University.

Amazing four scores that could have been mistaken as typos, the 'Cats snapped their eight-game losing streak to improve to 7-9 on the season.

Assistant coach Matt Johnson said the team got a much-needed confidence boost heading into conference play. "I say we're right where we need to be right now," Johnson said. "We needed those four games to get back on track. It was really nice for our hitters to produce some offense to give our pitchers that confidence that we're going to be there for him."

As six of nine losses came against ranked opponents, the 'Cats got a breather in playing a team who went 0-29 in 2006.

The Golden Eagles' first four outings of this season did nothing to alter

their reputation.

In game one, Northwest did not need much hitting as starter Danny Malone struck out nine batters and allowed only one hit in his six innings of work. The bats did awake from their two-week hibernation by pounding 17 hits en route to a 20-0 shutout. First baseman Britt Westman smashed two triples while second baseman Nick Pfeiffer slapped four singles to lead the way.

Game two did not bring much support for the helpless Crookston squad as Northwest continued to hammer shaky pitching. Senior catcher Ryley Westman got the 'Cats all the runs they would need by smacking a three-run homer off the top of the fence in the first inning. Starter Joel Epley equaled Malone's game one masterpiece in fanning nine Golden Eagles in six innings.

"We didn't know it was going to be that easy," Britt said. "I don't know if winning in a blowout gives us a chance to work on a whole lot of stuff because they didn't put us in a whole lot of situations defensively. But that (the offense) is what we needed to work on because coming out of Florida we weren't hitting real well."

Crookston's pitching managed to stifle Northwest's hitting spree in game three if only momentarily. The fourth inning put an end to that with shortstop John White and Ryley driving in four runs to turn the third straight game into a blowout. Sophomore starter Bill Disselhoff turned in the pitching performance of the series by going six innings and striking out 12 Golden Eagles.

If Disselhoff turned in the series' top pitching performance, Crookston's Stephen Funk certainly made a bid for the worst. He allowed 23 of the 28 Beacat runs in four innings as Ryley continued his career weekend at the plate by going 4-for-6 with two doubles. Second baseman Chris Benham set the season RBI pace by driving in eight in five at-bats.

Northwest opens MIAA play Friday with a four-game series against Southwest Baptist at noon Friday at home.

Britt believes if the lineup continues its momentum, they will be tough to beat. "There'll be better pitchers obviously but if we swing like we did, it's not going to matter who we face," he said.

The doubles team of Lucas Arboni and Felipe Gennari won the only doubles match, defeating Travis Stegner and Or Banera 8-5. Although the men dropped two of their doubles matches, they came back to tie in singles when Pablo Acebedo defeated No. 47 Stefan McKinney. Both Chris Smith and Jae Salsbury won their matches, leaving the final score 5-4.

"The matches were really close, with just one or two small points," senior Chris Smith said. "Overall I'm not that upset with the loss, we tried hard. We need to practice our volleys and service returns, because that's what tennis is."

For the women, Lindsay was the only Beacat to get a win for the team in singles matches, defeating Brynne Chappell. The women lost 6-2, but Lindsay said losses to nationally ranked teams has helped them in experience.

"We aren't put off by these losses. We hung pretty close with No. 10 ranked Drury and we knew Midwestern would be tough," Lindsay said. "It's good to play these top teams. It's giving us a lot of good experience for our conference matches."

Continuing the winning trend, Northwest managed a 7-2 victory over Augustana (S.D.). Simpson clobbered her season's second home run, while Leslie and Santiago-Bernier added two hits apiece.

Morris registered eight strikeouts for her day's second victory. "Morris" threw well and looked good," Anderson said. "They struggled with her change-up."

Morris said she felt good during the team's second tournament. "It was nice to get outside," she said. "It was a chance to see where we are. I think we are doing well, but there's always room for improvement."

However, on the second day, the 'Cats fell 8-0 to Oklahoma City and 4-0 to Southern Arkansas. Northwest's defense committed six errors against Southern Arkansas as Cola Krueger fell to 2-1 on the season.

Krueger gave up four hits, struck out two and allowed one earned run. "A couple of girls hammered the ball, but right at people," Anderson said. "We just couldn't find a break."

NAIA No. 5 rated Oklahoma City managed five runs in the first two innings en route to the victory. Morris recorded three strikeouts, while Krueger pitched 12 2/3 innings and allowed one unearned run.

"We have some big games coming up," Morris said. "We need to go out and be focused."

Northwest returns to action Friday and Saturday at the Emporia State tournament. The 'Cats square off against Bemidji (Minn.) State at 9 a.m., before facing Minnesota-Crookston at 11:30 a.m. Northwest finishes the day at 4:30 p.m. against Cameron (Okla.).

On Saturday, Northwest faces Winona (Minn.) State at 11:30 a.m. and ends the weekend against Central Oklahoma at 4 p.m.

"This is a big weekend," Anderson said. "Hopefully we become more comfortable with this extra time outside."

Anderson said the tournament features four teams from the region.

—NW TRACK

Isley brings back All-American honors

'Cats gear up for outdoor season

By Jared Verner
Missourian Reporter

Last Saturday, Eric Isley further distinguished himself as one of the top 800-meter runners in Northwest history.

He finished in fourth at the 2007 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston — becoming the 24th individual in Northwest history to earn indoor All-American honors. He is only the third to earn the honor in the 800-meter run.

His time of 1:51.15 placed him second in the school's all-time performance list, just four-hundredths of a second from the school mark. Kyle Kerasus set the current record of 1:51.11 in 2001.

"I was just happy for Eric," said head coach Richard Alsop, who has now coached 36 different athletes to All-American honors. "Eric qualified last year, but didn't run nearly as well. It was a good feeling."

Also competing at the national championships was senior high jumper Bayo Adio. He placed ninth with a jump of 6-8 3/4 — narrowly missing All-American honors. Adio qualified for the championships with a school record 6-11 1/2 at the Prairie Wolf Invitational on Feb. 16. That mark would have placed fifth in the final results.

"On his first attempt, his steps got off, and he should have just circled around," Alsop said. "... He came back and made it by eight or nine inches."

Senior Diezias Calbert finished 11th in the triple jump, recording 46-10 3/4 on his first attempt. He missed entering the finals by six centimeters, or two and a half inches.

"They worked hard," Alsop said. "They're just as deserving as anyone. Things just sometimes don't happen the way they're supposed to."

The focus of both Northwest teams now turns to the outdoor season, which begins today at the Pittsburg State Open for the men. "I think everyone is all fired up," Alsop said. "... I think the

others are excited about getting out on a nice, soft resilient track. We'll see if that excitement goes into Thursday's meet at Pitt State."

Returning for the men will be Isley and Calbert, who both earned All-American honors in their respective events last season. Also back will be junior E. J. Falkner, who finished second in the 400-meter and fifth in the 200-meter dashes at the 2005 championships. Falkner red-shirted the indoor season to even his indoor and outdoor eligibility.

Women's head coach Scott Lorek and his squad will trek to Clarksville, Tenn., on March 16-17 for the Austin Peay Spring Fling.

"We were mainly looking for a meet with some decent weather and decent competition," Lorek said. "Looking for a great meet was not an important thing, but we were looking for a good meet. It's a good starter meet."

Lorek said the change of events should be beneficial to his team. "We train all year with the outdoor season in mind," Lorek said. "I think a lot of the events suit us better."

—NW SOFTBALL

Different days produce different game results

By Scott Levine
Community Sports Editor

It was a tale of two different teams for Northwest softball coach Ryan Anderson.

Returning to the diamond for only the second time this season, the Beacats compiled a 2-2 record at the Missouri Southern tournament, running its record to 5-2 overall.

The Beacats won two games March 9, before going scoreless March 10 and losing both matchups.

"We had errors early and we couldn't rebound," Anderson said about the second day's action.

Improving to a school record 5-0, the 'Cats produced two victories on day one. Linell Santiago-Bernier and Megan Simpson went 3-for-4 and provided late-game dramatics during the 9-8 win over Missouri-St. Louis.

Simpson's seventh inning double knocked in the tying run as Santiago-Bernier's double plated the winning run in the extra frame. "We played defense and hit the ball," Anderson said. "We really looked like a team."

After Erin Leslie's three-run homer gave Northwest a 3-1 advantage, UMSL tied the score at six runs apiece off four unearned runs.

Kelly Morris picked up the victory allowing two hits over 2 2/3 innings.

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Anderson said the tournament features four teams from the region.



NORTHWEST SOFTBALL pitcher Cola Krueger works on different pitches on Tuesday afternoon's practice at the softball field. The next home game will be on March 22 at 2 p.m., when Northwest faces Nebraska-Omaha.

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—COLUMN

Committee drops the ball

Around 500 columns are written every fall about how bad the Bowl Championship Series is.

The NCAA tournament selection process does not endure similar scrutiny.

While I won't remotely defend the BCS, the NCAA's selection committee won't get a free pass either because this year, their group of aging athletic directors submitted a faulty bracket based on shoddy criteria.

People who know me may dismiss this column as a rant stemming solely from my beloved Syracuse's omission from the big dance, and they're half right. The shock made me lose it for a moment and Jim Boeheim blast the committee in his biggest tirade since cursing at the reporters who said Gerry McNamera was overrated.

I probably shouldn't be whining, as SU won a national title four years ago and the statute of limitations for bringing that up hasn't run out. But am I supposed to take it easy like Stephen Hyde in the circle just because my team has already reached the pinnacle of success? What fun would that be?

This was one of the worst selection years in history as legitimate cases can be made for at least four teams who are now awaiting the opening tip of the NIT (a sham of a tournament that is basketball's equivalent to college football's pre-New Year's Day bowl). Syracuse, Kansas State, Florida State and West Virginia each deserved spots in the big dance.

The 'Cuse's bubble has burst before but those weren't surprises. This season's bracket absence was particularly depressing because, as Boeheim said, they were not a bubble team.

No sources had them on their bubble watch and they were thought to be safely in the field. Until this year, I'd never seen a team get left out that was not even discussed in bubble banter.

My Orange did set a precedent in becoming the first team to win 10 Big East conference games and be left out of the tourney. In those games, SU beat No. 9 Georgetown, eight-seeded Villanova and eighth-seeded Marquette.

If winning 22 games and beating consensus Elite 8 pick Georgetown by 14 isn't enough then something is wrong.

K-State should have also gotten in by going 10-6 in the strong Big 12, beating Texas once and Bobby 'the literal choke artist' Knight's Texas Tech squad twice. FSU (20-12, 7-9 ACC) should've gotten in over Arkansas (21-13 7-9 SEC) as they played in a murderous league this season and recorded wins over four tournament teams in the process.

I did agree with the decision

Dannen Merrill added a little more hardware as a Maryville wrestler March 11. Only a freshman, Merrill finished fifth at the state tournament, and now can add second team all-conference and academic all-state to his resume.

In order to receive academic all-state, the wrestler must place at state and achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Merrill was also the lone Spoofhound to attain all-conference accolades.

Maryville coach Joe Drake said this can be attributed to a strong conference. "People have to understand, our conference is very strong."

Drake said, "Even making second team is quite an honor in this conference."

During the awards banquet Tuesday, the wrestling team awarded Cliff Robertson with the Joe Pope Memorial trophy. Drake said this award is given to the wrestler that is good in the classroom along with a hard work ethic.

Robertson also finished the season with the most takedowns, while Jason Davis recorded the season's most pins. Even Johnson received most improved and Merrill was named most outstanding wrestler.

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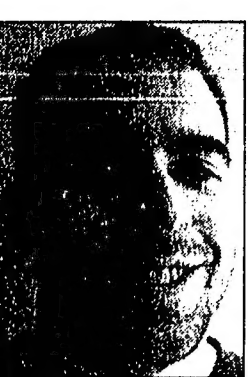
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Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

—NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tappmeyer cautious about drop-off

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

As the coaching staff begins player evaluations and long hours on the recruiting trail, Tappmeyer is cautious with getting too excited about next season's prospect.

"We had to play very close to our potential in almost every game in conference," Tappmeyer said. "Everybody's excited for a drop off. It's very challenging."

After Central Missouri ended Northwest's 24-7 season in the South Central Regional semifinal, Northwest coach Steve Tappmeyer spoke about the season.

"Right now, we're focused on how special this team was and how special of a season we had," Tappmeyer said after the 72-61 loss.

After being picked fifth in the MIAA preseason poll, Northwest won a share of the regular season title. Hunter Henry had a breakout season and won the MIAA Player of the Year, while Tappmeyer was named coach of the year. Lance Sullivan won the freshman of the year and John Hawkins was named to the all-defensive team.

One of the areas Tappmeyer said he wants to address during the recruiting season is rebounding. Northwest finished second, to worst in the league in rebounding and it

showed in losses to Pittsburg State in the MIAA conference tournament and Central in the playoffs.

"We still won some games, but we just got it handed to us on the boards," Tappmeyer said. "We need to go to the returning players and get that extra couple of inches on the vertical and add some extra pounds."

Reggie Robinson and Victor James are the only players lost to graduation. Mose Howard, last season's leading scorer, returns from a knee injury and will replace Robinson at the point.

"We're going to miss Vic and Reggie, both on and off the floor," forward Andy Peterson said.

Tappmeyer said he will miss the leadership of James and Robinson. Right now, it's uncertain who will step into that role.

"I think we have a number of guys that can do that, but it's hard to tell," Tappmeyer said. "Part of that happens between now and May when they leave and when they come back in the fall."

Peterson said he hasn't had a chance to reflect on the season, but said it was all about the team coming together as one.

"Coach has a system and we bought into it," Peterson said.

WALTER: 2-sport athlete at MHS

continued from B2

Walter said the other two sports he plays cannot quite match the atmosphere that exelling on the hardwood brings.

"I love when our crowd's really into it during a close game," Walter said. "The adrenaline rush is definitely there."

"Hitting a big three in a big game would be bigger thrill than hitting a home run."

The all-conference honor is Walter's first of his high school career and the 'Hounds' only member of any of the squads. Averaging nearly 17 points, the guard led Maryville in scoring the entire year, a feat that he accomplished during the 2006 season as coach.

Coach Mike Kuwitzky said, aside from his talent from beyond the arc, Walter's dedication to the game is what impressed him most.

"His shooting was his best asset, especially his 3-point shooting," Kuwitzky said. "He took basketball very seriously, always looking to improve his game."

Even when weren't practicing, which was very little this season, but on a Sunday you could find him shooting and preparing himself in the gym. It really paid off."

After playing competitive basketball for six years, Walter arrived at Maryville in the fall of 2004, six months removed from a state title game appearance. He contributed mostly on the freshman team, seeing little varsity action on a team that qualified for the Class 3 state tournament. His second year, he led the team in scoring on a squad that stumbled to a 5-21 record.

Walter said locker room dissension doomed that team.

"It was tough. Our team unity wasn't there because we were all tired of losing so we were always arguing," Walter said. "This year was a little better but not too much better. But our unity was there this year."

This season, the 'Hounds started

out by winning five of their first six games, including capturing the Nodaway County Tournament title.

But after the non-conference slate closed, the team found themselves mired in a slump that consumed MHS. The losing spell continued until season's end as the 'Hounds found no cure for their defensive lapses and overall inconsistency.

Despite losing 15 of their last 18 to wind up 8-16, Walter had the best season of his career, notching over 20 points on several occasions.

Against Chillicothe in January, Walter tallied 24 points, mostly from inside the arc, to lead Maryville to one of its final wins. Against Plattsburg on Feb. 23, Walter netted 20 of his team's 35 points and against Bishop-LeBlond last December, Walter, in what he would call his best game, swished seven 3-pointers.

Walter was still not content as his team plummeted to the cellar of the conference down the stretch.

"We played to team's levels," he said. "If they were a worse team than us we played to their level, which got us beat a lot. And if they were good, we'd play up to them but it wasn't good enough."

In the district quarterfinals against Plattsburg, Walter helped his team rally by sinking late three's but it was for naught as his team-high 20 points weren't quite good enough to give the 'Hounds another game.

Playing on teams where success has been few and far between since his arrival, individual honors may have to suffice as he prepares for his final year as a 'Hound.

Walter will return to the 'Hound Pound for his senior season under the Friday night lights this fall but already has his mind on how he can lead his basketball troops to a district title come winter.

"I definitely want to win the Nodaway County tournament again, win districts and possibly win conference," he said. "We'll have a shot if we play to our potential the whole year."

FUTURE: Team losing one player as 2006-2007 season ends

continued from B1

Northwest rattled off consecutive victories against Central Missouri, Truman State and Pitt State during the first part of February. This was the first time the 'Cats strung together victories since Dec. 9.

During the season's latter part, specific players emerged as catalysts on the offensive and defensive ends. One player taking on a different role was O'Grady.

A starter for most of the season, O'Grady started coming off the bench and provided timely three-point shooting.

Towards the end of the season I started playing better," O'Grady said. "This experience was a good one."

O'Grady notched 24 points during the season's final game against Fort Hays State. Along with O'Grady, April Miller and Lauren Williams established themselves as go-to players on the defensive end.

Continually drawing the opposition's best outside threats, Miller and Williams joined Kelli Nelson as defensive stalwarts.

Williams and Nelson led the team with over two steals a game, while Miller held Lone Star all-conference Player of the Year Emily Brister to only six points in the first half during the tournament's first round game.

But Steinmeyer said the team's experience, fused with recruiting experienced players, should produce a team capable of challenging for the region's top spot.

"I've been here eight years, and three years ago I didn't do a good job recruiting," Steinmeyer said. "It's really important to add experience."

The 'Cats previous appearance in the regional tournament came in 2004, but during the following two seasons, Northwest managed a combined 28-30 record. Steinmeyer said this shouldn't happen again.

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JASMINE SHOWS no signs of her debilitating hip condition as she jumps for her toy in Beal Park. She was diagnosed with hip dysplasia in January and Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness is raising money for her surgery.

Dog gone shame

Group helps Humane Society ensure animals safety through 'Buddy Program', encouraging adoption

By Andrea James
Chief Reporter

She acts just like any other dog.

She loves to chase tennis balls, jump for her squeak toy and play with her companion, Roxie. Her owners describe the one-and-a-half-year-old pit bull terrier as a cuddle bug that loves to give kisses.

Jasmine once laid down with a litter of kittens whose mother was ran over by a car and let them suckle off her. She was trying to protect them," owner Eddie Graves said.

Even though Jasmine looks normal on the outside, there is something on the inside that makes her different. Her problem can't be seen when she is running or jumping, but when she walks, Jasmine walks with a slight limp because of a debilitating hip condition called hip dysplasia.

Hip dysplasia is a genetic disease that causes various forms of arthritis, according to Offa, a Web site sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. American pit bull terriers are ranked in the top 26th for dogs with this condition - of 535 pit bull terriers tested by the OFA, 22.4 percent were found to have hip dysplasia.

Owners Eddie Graves and Christa Woods have two options to help their pet. The first option is cheaper, the method is crude and it will cost about \$400. However, the best thing for Jasmine would be a full hip replacement that would cost \$4,000 per hip, Woods said.

Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness has decided to adopt Jasmine and her family and help them on their endeavor, said Kristina Hargin, board member of the New Nodaway County Humane Society.

NWAAA is a campus group that volunteers time to the Humane Society and helping animals and owners in need.

"When Jasmine came to the shelter, she was pathetic, skinny and she could barely stay awake. Within a week, she started to grow into a really beautiful dog," Hargin said.

NWAAA will host a benefit on Saturday, April 14, in College Park to raise money for Jasmine's operations, she said. The benefit will reunite shelter dogs that now have homes with previous caretakers. City dog tags will also be sold at the benefit.

The funds collected will go into a checking account for Jasmine. The group is also selling tickets to see "A Dog's Life" at the American Heartland Theatre at Crown Center.

"We really appreciate everything they are doing," Graves said.

The couple adopted Jasmine in December 2005 from a breeder in Fayette, Mo. Jasmine was six pounds, six ounces, which is a third of the weight she should have been, Graves said.

Graves and Woods fostered another pit bull terrier named Roxie in April 2006 and adopted her the following December. Roxie is approximately two-years-old and they got her from the Humane Society, Graves said.

The dogs get along well together

and with other dogs, Woods said. Jasmine and Roxie's favorite things to do besides sleep and eat are chasing tennis balls and eating black socks.

"Jasmine will chase anything that Roxie chases," Woods said.

Woods and Graves noticed Jasmine limping in September 2006. The first doctor they took her to said she tore her

anterior cruciate ligaments in both of her hind legs, Graves said. The next doctor told the couple that Jasmine was suffering from pains because she was still a young dog. However, in January, doctors performed X-rays and found out Jasmine has hip dysplasia.

"She is still playful but it still bothers her, especially in the cold weather. Jasmine still has a little puppy in her," Graves said.

Members of the NWAAA not only want to help animals like Jasmine, they want to educate community members on the importance of spaying, neutering and licensing animals as well, Hargin said.

"Tags make it easier to locate lost animals, they say that the animals are vaccinated and authorities can know how many are in the city. If there is an epidemic with these animals, it's nice to know how

many there are," Hargin said. Many people do not know about the city's tag ordinance and that it has to be renewed every year, she said. To license an animal, it will cost approximately \$1.50 at City Hall. An effort is also being made for tags to be purchased at the Humane Society.

Spaying and neutering animals is also important to the community and the animals, said Francisco Martinez, language, theatre, and communications instructor.

Martinez is an active member of NWAAA and has three recovered dogs of his own. Recovered dogs are animals that have been adopted from the Humane Society and given a better life.

"There are too many stray animals because people don't spay or

neuter their pets. An aggressive dog is often a male dog that hasn't been neutered," Martinez said.

He joined the group because he loves animals and wants to do something for them.

"The animals cannot tell us what they want to do or what they want to say. If we start treating our animals well, we will start treating

ourselves well and other cultures well. We will become more humane," Martinez said.

NWAAA will help animals in the community and the Humane Society by hosting fundraisers

and volunteering their time, Hargin said. The group was asked by the Humane Society board plan this spring's Humane Society luncheon. It is the main fundraising event for the Humane Society and about 200 to 300 people will attend.

"It is an incredible opportunity for students to jump up and pull off an incredible task," Hargin said.

The money raised during the luncheon will go to general funding. It is at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 1, at First Christian Church.

Northwest freshman Elizabeth Nunn volunteers at the Humane Society and helps out with the group. Nunn started to volunteer at a shelter after she saw an ad in a

newspaper. Members of NWAAA will volunteer their time to the shelter by walking dogs in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and taking dogs to public places so they can socialize," she said.

NWAAA has two buddies at the Humane Society, Nunn said. The buddy program allows people to support animals for \$10 per month. Buddies can choose an animal of their choice that they come visit and play with.

For more information on Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness and how to help contact Hargin at 562-1254 or khargin@nwmissouri.edu

For more information on how to help the New Nodaway County Humane Society, go to Nodaway-humane.org.

HOWTOHELP
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■ Be a buddy to an animal at the Humane Society
■ Foster an animal

Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness events
■ Shelter dog reunion and fundraiser for Jasmine
■ Dog walk in the St. Patrick's Day parade
■ Humane Society Luncheon
■ Ticket raffle for 'A Dog's Life' at the American Heartland Theatre at Crown Center

DOG'S JASMINE and Roxie take a break from chasing tennis balls with their owners Christa Woods and Eddie Graves. The couple adopted Jasmine in December 2005 and Roxie in April 2006.

Photo by Andrea James, Chief Reporter

—HOROSCOPES

Today's Birthday (3-8-07)

You'll make wonderful discoveries this year. You'll venture farther out than you've ever known existed. Take care; there will be surprises, and not all of them are pleasant.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is an 8 — Finish an old task and you can collect the money that you're owed. The task may simply be asking for the money. You can do it; don't be afraid.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a 6 — Take a back seat, and let somebody else do the driving for a while. Better yet, stay out of the vehicle altogether. There's too much confusion out there.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is an 8 — You're asked to take on a new and very difficult assignment. Don't worry; luck is with you in this. Proceed with confidence.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is a 7 — An otherwise blissful interlude is rudely interrupted. The disagreement is about how the money should be spent. Postpone big purchases until next week.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 5 — Real estate and home improvements are usually well favored. This time, however, your purchase could spark a domestic confrontation. Better talk it over first.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is a 7 — As you reach the next level, you find that you've outgrown some of your methods. You may need to revise your procedures and update your equipment, too.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is an 8 — Finally, the money's coming in. All that work was not for nothing. Unfortunately, a loved one and/or child wants you to take them shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is an 8 — You're the strong silent type for a reason. That's how you're most effective. Maintain the mystery now; excessive info will cause confusion.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 7 — You're more interested in working now because you must. You do well under pressure; maybe that's why you wait. You love that adrenalin rush.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is an 8 — Discuss your most recent insights with friends who can help you understand. The part that at first is the most confusing turns out to be the most basic.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 9 — There's plenty of money to be made, if you can do what's required. To be part of the team, you must learn there's always someone who outranks you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is an 8 — Encouragement from far away is certainly heart warming. But, can you accept adoration from one who doesn't know the whole story? Sure, if it makes them feel good.

—STROLLER

Your Man lectures Brangelina

Screw Cancun! Screw Miami! Your Man is adopting a child from Uzbekistan during his Spring Break!

Nah, I'm just kidding. But can you blame me for dreaming? I mean, if Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie can do it three times within the span of only a few years, why shouldn't we?

Yes, folks, they're at it again. The Brangelina Orphanage Adoption World Tour recently made its way to Vietnam, and they didn't leave empty-handed.

According to the Associated Press, the couple is adopting a 3 or 4-year-old boy from an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City. They already have three other children, and two of them are also adopted. Son Maddox, 5, is from Cambodia, and daughter Zahara, 2, is an Ethiopian native.

Their other, biological child, daughter Shiloh, was born last May. And, according to a recent *People* magazine article, Brangelina began exploring the possibility of adopting a fourth child shortly after she



The Stroller

was born.

Of course, with this new adoption comes yet another publicity frenzy. We probably won't stop hearing about this until these poor kids reach their teens.

I really believe this celebrity couple is constructing some sort of new pattern of parenting; having a couple of children of your own, but picking up a few from third-world countries on the side.

Remember the "Beanie Babies?" Just replace "Beanie" with "living, breathing," and you've discovered the newest, hottest cultural craze!

The media are the primary culprits of this madness. The United States adopts more children than any other country in the world, according to the Population Refer-

ence Bureau. Yet it seems the only time the word "adoption" pops up in news reports is when the words "Madonna" or "Brad and Angelina" tag along with it.

Your Man thinks adoption is a wonderful thing. There are so many children in this world that would love to be part of a family. But it's when the whole process turns into a celebrity trend or, God forbid, some sort of fad, I have to draw the line. I'm not saying Angelina doesn't do great things on her goodwill missions. It's obvious she cares about this planet and the humans that inhabit it.

But by now this woman has to realize that whenever she walks into an orphanage with adoption on her mind, it's going to turn into a media event.

I really hope both she and her husband will take a break from this family building streak. Brangelina, if you love your children, or any other child you visit on your trips for that matter, start thinking twice before you decide to bring them into the circus that is your life.

—MOVIE REVIEW

'300' reigns victorious

By James Evans
Missourian Reporter

For those that thought "Gladiator" was for pansies, your film has arrived.

"300" is the film equivalent of an injection from a syringe full of adrenaline, at least for guys. The movie follows the "true" story of 300 Spartan soldiers who battled against the massive army of the Persian Empire.

While the basic details of the story may be true, one doubts the battle looked anything like this. But who cares about realism? This movie blows your mind with its intensity and visual style.

"300" follows the visual trends set by films like "Sin City." Every scene plays out in a computer-generated environment and nary a single aspect of the film remains untouched by digital enhancement. The result is an action film that looks like a piece of art. Think Schwarzenegger as done by Picasso.

Just in case anybody didn't take a Western Civilization class, Sparta was a Greek city-state whose entire focus was on the art of war. Spartan boys were sent away to fighting school at a very early age and death in battle was the ultimate goal. In other words, the characters in this movie are some very scary gentlemen.

The king and lead soldier of the Spartans is "Leonidas." Leonidas represents the ultimate toughness. He kills wolves, taunts powerful enemies and fights with arrows sticking through his chest. Gerard Butler ("Tomb Raider") plays up the character for all he's worth.

Leonidas will go down in movie warrior history alongside William Wallace of "Braveheart" and "Gladiator" Maximus Decimus Meridius. His memorable quote "Tonight, we dine in hell!" should inspire testosterone-fueled males for years to come. Although, when you think about it, it's really not a very appealing offer.

Most of the film's sequences exhibit the Spartans' inhuman fighting ability. Elaborately staged battle sequences show us in slow motion how one Spartan soldier effortlessly moves from killing one enemy to the next. These scenes display amazing acrobatic skill as they play out like a well-choreographed dance.

Don't be confused; this movie isn't going to top Oscar lists. It is, after all, based on a graphic novel comic book. Then again, I doubt the Oscar crowd is the filmmakers' target audience. "300" will draw in almost every American male under the age of 30. Most will love it.

This film is exactly what it tried to be: a full-throttle action film that assaults your senses. Those in search of a historically accurate study of the events need not attend. Unlike many other epic war films that follow a Hollywood formula, "300" brings a fresh view of life on the battlefield.

Just in case any women are wondering what they stand to gain from seeing the film, it should be noted that Sparta is populated entirely by half-naked men with chiseled abs.

The film's tagline is "Prepare for Glory," but it might as well say, "Prepare for decapitation, sparring blood, screaming, grotesque beasts and extreme masculinity." "300" delivers all of this in a heart-pounding and visually stunning fashion.

James Evans gives '300'
5 out of 5 popcorns



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67 Hit from the past

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—CONCERT REVIEW

The Gang's All Here; Dropkick Murphys sells out in Kansas City

By Dan Whitacre
Missourian Reporter

"My eye is bleeding," Chris Cummins shouts out in a brief moment between songs at last Thursday night's Dropkick Murphys performance.

Chris rode two hours from Maryville to Kansas City with three other friends just to see one of three bands. The crazy thing is, he expected to get battered and beaten all in the name of music. Chris said, "it's all part of the fun of going to see the Dropkick Murphys."

As he wipes the blood from his right brow he joins the sold out crowd in cheering on the seven members of the Irish-punk rock band. The minor wound is not a concern; instead it is more of a medal of honor.

To many fans of mainstream music this rowdy music scene is misunderstood. However, to those inside the mosh pit it isn't just some barbaric display of violence. In fact, there is an underlying protocol of obedience and trust in place. In a sense, the true theme of the night became evident. The music one of the Murphys' philosophical

themes - when someone falls, you help them back up.

Many times Dropkick Murphys have been called "a band of the people," a name that they live up to every show.

The idea is to create an "all for one, one for all environment." "We view the band and the audience as one in the same; in other words our stage and our microphone are yours."

It's more than just blood and sweat, it's the feeling of being part of the music and a member of the band. The Murphys gave their all and so did the fans.

To some the metaphor became much more real as the band invited female members to join them on stage during the song "Spicy McHaggis jig."

As the band continued the encore with their most recent hit, "Shipping Up To Boston" the stage was opened to dozens of fans who danced and swayed, while nearly the entire audience sang along. For a moment the audience became the band and the true theme of the night became evident. The music truly is for the fans.

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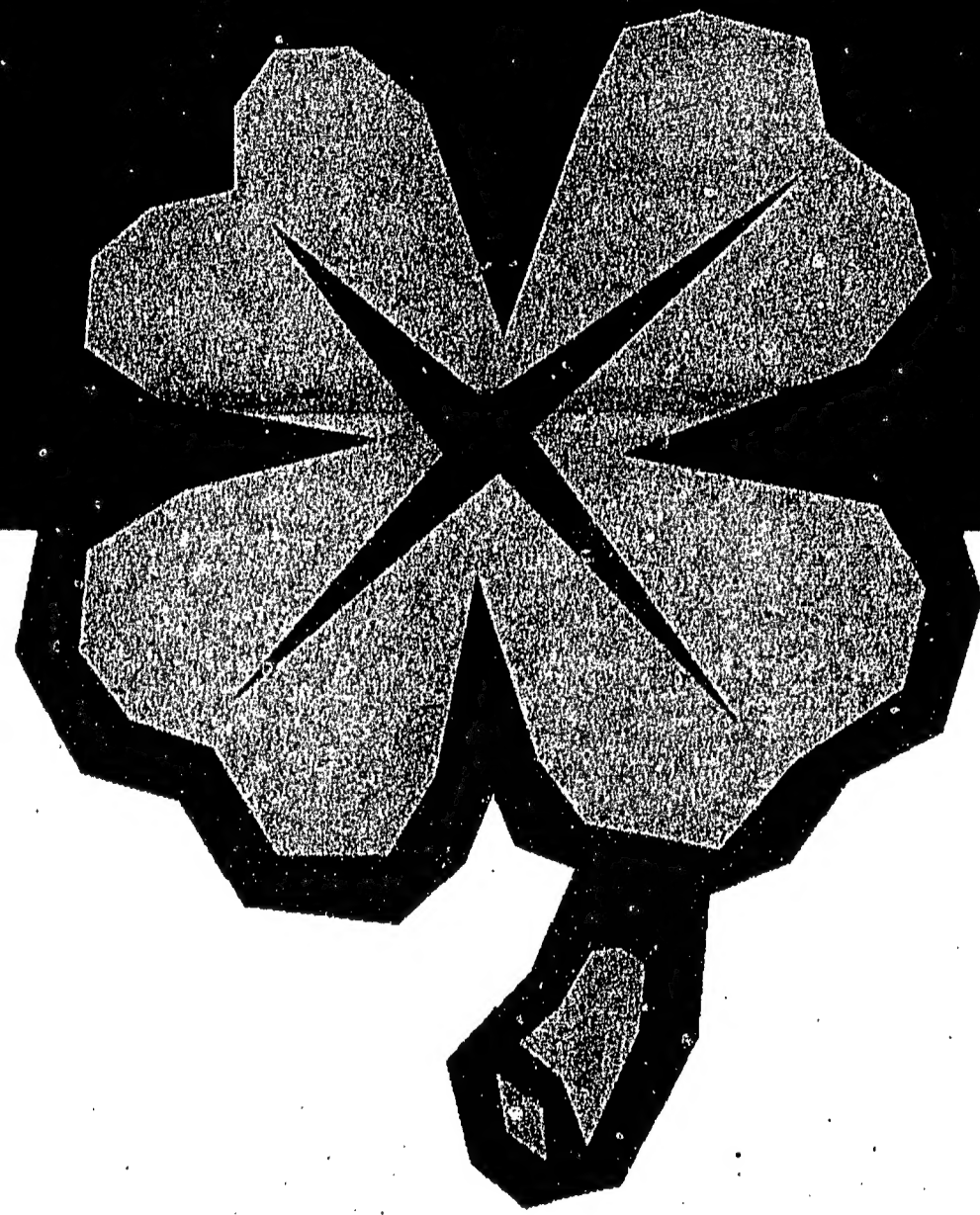
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